

Appl. No. 10/695,757
Amendment dated June 9, 2004
Reply to Office Action of March 9, 2004

Remarks

Claims 1-13 are pending in the application, with claim 1 being the independent claim.

Based on the present Amendment and the following Remarks, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn.

Response to Restriction Requirement

In response to the Restriction Requirement, Applicant hereby elects Invention I, represented by claims 1-12. However, claim 13 has been amended to depend from claim 1. As such, it is proper to examine claim 13 with claims 1-12.

Acknowledgement of Allowed Subject Matter

The indication in the Action that claims 1-12 contain allowable subject matter is gratefully noted. Claim 13 has been amended to depend from claim 1.

Objection to the Specification

Section headings have been added to the Specification.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 1-13 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. The claims have been amended to overcome the rejection. The claims were also amended to remove the reference numbers and to better conform to U.S. practice. Claims 1-13 should be in condition for allowance.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

Item 12 of the Office Action Summary acknowledges the claim for foreign priority but states that the certified copies of the priority documents have not been received. The certified copies of the priority documents were filed on January 23, 2004. Acknowledgement of receipt of the priority documents is respectfully requested.

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Conclusion

All of the stated grounds of objection and rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn. Applicant believes that a full and complete reply has been made to the outstanding Office Action and, as such, the present application is in condition for allowance.

If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is hereby invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

A Notice of Allowance with claims 1-13 is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: _____

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